

A Planetary Crisis of Consciousness From Ego-Based Cultures to a Sustainable Global World

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The End of Our World?

Through the ages we have had prophesies, visions and predictions of our world coming to an end. Our Biblical context, for example, gives us revelations of an apocalyptic end in its unfolding providential drama of Divine Justice and eschatology. Certain indigenous calendars seem to converge on the coming decade as a crucial transitioning for our human condition and life on earth. And in recent decades, with an expanding awareness of megatrends and patterns on a planetary scale, we are more familiar with a growing number of urgent warnings of unprecedented ecological, economic, ideological and political crises that threaten our very sustainability and survival on this planet.

There is a growing urgent sense in a number of circles that the fuse is short and that if we do not make dramatic changes now in our cultural practices, it may be too late to turn things around. So what are we to believe? Is our world as we know it about to come to an end? Are we now at a critical moment in our evolution that is saying do or die? Is there any objective validity to the diagnosis that we are in the midst of a monumental crisis, which will determine our collective fate?

One preeminent Futurist who expresses well a truly global or planetary perspective concerning the emerging crisis we now face is Dr. Ervin Laszlo, who has also been a pioneer in whole systems science. In his current book, *The Chaos Point: The World at the Crossroads*, he builds on emerging themes from earlier works and brings out clearly that we have reached a critical turning point.

He suggests that in the next few years, humanity faces crucial decisions and choices around unsustainable megatrends that are at the threshold of an irreversible tipping point. As he sees it, we must either consciously evolve to a higher form of sustainable culture in which the whole human family may co-exist in a more secure, flourishing and peaceful world, or else face a terrible

scenario in which there is unprecedented implosion of our social, economic, political and ecological systems. Laszlo's main message is that it is up to us to envision and co-create this new world, and he suggests that each of us has the power and potential to play a decisive role.

My own journey as a global philosopher, logician and ontologist over the past four decades has brought me to a remarkable convergence with Laszlo and others concerning the main event in the human condition at this time. The new frontier of global philosophy calls us beyond our more localized perspectives, traditions, worldviews or disciplinary orientations to a higher-order global rational space, a higher dimension of rationality and integral science. In my adventure into this global horizon, which invokes a dilated global lens and global perspective across widely diverse worldviews, I have discovered a long-emerging tradition of global vision and wisdom that grounds, corroborates and validates the deep diagnosis of the present planetary crisis also uncovered and uniquely narrated by Laszlo.

So in what follows I will briefly present some of these summary findings and connect them with Laszlo's work. Laszlo's findings are corroborated and validated within an amazing emergent global consensus of the presiding planetary event. This consensus of global wisdom is grounded in a hitherto dormant yet emergent Integral Science that has been tapped to various degrees by our great global teachers and visionaries through the ages. This missing Hologistic Science comes to the fore when we make the dimensional shift in global reason and dilate the global lens. And I link this startling diagnosis of the great planetary crisis of consciousness now before us with our common initiatives through the World Commission on Global Consciousness and Spirituality, the Club of Budapest and the newly formed World Wisdom Council.

An Unprecedented Dimensional Shift in Global Consciousness

The true nature of the planetary crisis is essentially a crisis of consciousness. We need to stand back and gain critical distance from our more localized perspectives, worldviews, ideologies and disciplinary orientations. When we make a dimensional shift into a more expansive space, our diverse worldviews, cultures and disciplines co-arise; a global lens opens that is inter-perspectival. And in this expanded perspective, astounding megatrends and patterns in the evolution of our human condition become evident. We are now able to hold genuinely multiple alternative worldviews together in one integral rational consciousness, revealing a collective global wisdom that has been emerging through the ages.

Global Wisdom and Vision: Some Astounding Findings

When we hold our diverse great philosophical, religious, spiritual, cultural and disciplinary traditions together in a hologistic vision,

we are able to discern larger millennial patterns and megatrends in our cultural evolution. One such striking pattern is that our great traditions have all sought to name and articulate some boundless, originating and generative source whence all that appears to us arises.

Whether "It" be named *Tao, Aum, Yahweh, Sunyata, God, Allah, Christ, Nature, Spirit, Energy, Mind, Matter*, it becomes clear that there is a Primal Logic to this Infinite Originating Source that is the global ground of all that appears in all possible worlds and perspectives. Our global lens enables us to bring these diverse narratives or cosmologies together, and reveals an emergent deep ontology or cosmology of objective reality that is not as directly accessible from more localized perspectives. It becomes clear that Reality is and must be a Primal Infinite Unified Force-Field of boundless inter-connectivity. This global inter-perspectivity discloses a long sought-for missing Primal Discipline or Global Integral Science/Philosophy—which opens a deeper encounter with scientific reality. Reality is a dynamic field of relations, which is Integral, Hologistic and Dialogic. It takes an Integral Mind to process this Integral Objective Reality.

We Are as We Mind: Our Worlds are Mind-Made

This higher order Global Wisdom and Vision with its Integral Global Science brings out the latent consensus of global truth across widely diverse worldviews and disciplines. In this breathtaking vista we see diverse traditions unfolding in mutual corroboration through the ages and converging on clear evolutionary patterns. One of the astounding disclosures is that we humans play a direct role in co-creating our living realities through the conduct of our mind and consciousness. What appears to us as "reality" is directly co-created through our own mental activities and the mental lens that has been shaped in and through our personal and cultural habits and practices.

It is not just that we have lenses through which we interpret all that appears: it is also that we employ "mental programs" to process and shape all the "phenomena" that show up in our awareness. A more technical word for this minding activity is "logistic," suggesting a certain logic or technology of mental programming. The great Global Truth that "We are as we Mind" is a key to understanding how and why the urgent crisis we now face on a planetary scale is at heart a "crisis of consciousness."

Egocentric Minding Produces Egomental Worlds

In our human evolution there is a pervasive stage of egocentric minding—analogue to a technological stage of development. Our great traditions have in diverse ways discerned and diagnosed this stage in our mental development, in which we naively identify what appears to us through our mental lens as reality itself. We have no awareness that our mental activity and practices play a vital role in what actually appears to us. There is little or no awareness that our worldview or perspective is only one amongst boundless others.

This naive egocentric attitude takes in the worldviews of Others through the filters of its own ego-lens, not realizing that this is a

form of distortion of the life-world of the Other. This egocentric mental practice produces all kinds of polarities, fragmentations, violence and other personal and cultural pathologies, and cuts itself off from the deeper surrounding Integral, Holistic and Unified Force-Field of Objective Reality.

One finding of Global Wisdom is the "Law of Integral Minding." Simply stated—the more Integral the Minding, the greater the Meaning, the greater the Truth-Value, and the more in touch with Objective Reality; hence the greater wholeness, well-being, knowledge and flourishing. We experience our deep connectivity with our Selves, Others, other cultures and worlds, other disciplines and ideologies, the Earth, Nature, and the Universe.

Outgrowing Egomentalism: The Great Event in Human Evolution & Development

The evolution of consciousness and cultures is precisely the shift from egomental habits of world-making to a more holistic, dialogic and integral technology of minding. This shift is found to be the pathway of moral, spiritual and scientific awakening. The main event in the human condition is this profound shift from egomentalism to Integral Global Minding. Nothing less than the essence of what it means to be Human and our survival as a species is at stake.

The Planetary Crisis of Consciousness: Our Main Event

Two great counter-forces have been driving and emerging in and through human evolutionary development over millennia. Whatever the reasons for egomental habits of minding, the consensus of our wisdom traditions suggests that the inner drive of Reality itself calls us to evolve and mature beyond pernicious egomentalism. Every great step forward for humanity has been a step toward the more humane and awakened integral rationality of genuine dialogic encounter, moral compassion and care, freedom of expression and individuality, personal empowerment, dignity, liberation and deeper communion, community and sustainability.

What is Happening Now in Planetary Evolution?

The current state of our world is the net effect of our individual and collective minding practices over time, which have brought us to the current untenable and unsustainable world. But it is also true that the cumulative and holistic effect of the awakening forces of consciousness have been growing as a counter-force.

The integral powers of the global lens enable us to discern megapatterns. Those visionaries who have the capacity and integral imagination to discern the workings of whole systems, like Laszlo, are better able to see what is so urgently before us, and overlooked through ego-eyes.

Twin Forces and Twin Crises: A Struggle for the Soul of Planet Earth

In this larger planetary and evolutionary drama, two images of the true "human being" are in a decisive power struggle. One face of

the crisis is that egomental forces appear to have dominated our personal, cultural and institutional lives throughout history, and are peaking now in a runaway uncontrolled scenario. They have won the day. This "negative" reading would be one rendering of the current global crisis.

The End of Egomental Cultures and Worlds

It is also apparent that the awakening forces of integral consciousness have also been shaping our human condition, and appear to be gaining evolutionary momentum. From this point of view, the crises for the egomental cultures have run their course, are clearly dysfunctional, and are facing evolutionary and historical extinction.

The challenge for awakened global citizens is of unprecedented self-organization, radical networking, and community building on a planetary scale so as to co-create a critical mass of awakened global humans of sufficient proportions to turn around the destructive megatrends of egomental cultures.

Clearly we face grave danger, but this crisis is also a threshold of amazing new possibilities. People do wish to flourish when they have the appropriate knowledge and awakened consciousness to realize it is our choice. Worlds are mind-made, and when we rise together in awakened global and integral rational consciousness, we have the opportunity and responsibility to bring forth higher forms of sustainable cultures and worlds. A new global civilization awaits.

Global Vision and Our Urgent Collective Work

We are in a better position now to see the historic power, urgency and significance of the vision and work of transformative organizations such as the World Wisdom Council or the World Commission on Global Consciousness and Spirituality. When we examine our current world situation through Integral Vision and Global Wisdom, hopefully we can see more clearly the scope, validity and contextual grounding of the collective deep diagnosis and prescription. It appears that we are in the midst of an unprecedented planetary crisis that calls forth unprecedented individual and collective global awakening.

Indeed, this is the *raison d'être* for several of our urgent initiatives to help bring forth this new planetary civilization. The World Commission on Global Consciousness and Spirituality, The Club of Budapest, our newly constituted World Wisdom Council, Kosmos Journal and other allied initiatives like the Global Marshall Plan and the Goi Peace Foundation, to mention a few, are all essentially focused on bringing forth an enlightened global civilization. Dr. Laszlo should be commended for his global vision and courage in helping us to get this deeper understanding of the historic crisis we are now facing. The clearer we are about our situation, the more effective we can be in responding. Our future turns on this.

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Millennium Development Goals

A Call for Global Action

- 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**
Halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by 2015.
Halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger by 2015.
- 2. Achieve universal primary education**
Ensure that by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.
- 3. Promote gender equality and empower women**
Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015.
- 4. Reduce child mortality**
Reduce by two-thirds the under-5 mortality rate by 2015.
- 5. Improve maternal health**
Reduce by three-quarters the maternal mortality rate by 2015.
- 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**
By 2015 halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.
By 2015 halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.
- 7. Ensure environmental sustainability**
Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs, and reverse the loss of environmental resources.
Halve by 2015 the number of people without access to safe drinking water and sanitation, and significantly improve the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.
- 8. Create a global partnership for development**
with targets for aid, trade and debt relief. Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable non-discriminatory trading and financial system. Address the special needs both of the least developed countries and of landlocked and small island developing countries. Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable. In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth. In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries. In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications.

To participate contact: www.millenniumcampaign.org